venter, especially in the female, gives a decidedly *Polistes*-like aspect to this remarkable form, and it also bears some resemblance to our forms of *Alydus* and *Berytus*. It can hardly be the species *E. nigriceps*, described by Prof. Westwood, London Entom. Soc. Trans., v. II, 1837, p. 22, pl. II, fig. 7, as the type of his genus; but the proportions in form there given would seem to approach very nearly to those of our species, notwithstanding the disparity in the colors of the two insects.

The genus *Xenetus* established by Mr. Distant in the Biologia Centrali-Americana will, no doubt, prove upon actual comparison of the types to be the same as this *Eucerocoris* of Prof. Westwood. In the former, the eyes are stated to be "contiguous to the anterior margin of the pronotum," but in all the numerous specimens that I have examined only the immature females seem to have a corner of the eye in contact with the pronotum. In the males, the eyes are, as in many genera of *Capsidæ*, widely remote from the collum of the pronotum, while in the females they are in direct contact therewith. No contact is seen in the figure of *Xenetus bracteatur* Dist., which exactly agree in form with our species of *Eucerocoris* described above.

An interesting New Genus of South American Tachinidæ.

By Prof. S. W. Williston.

In a valuable collection of South American Diptera, received from Mr. H. H. Smith for study, I have found a very singular species of *Tachinidæ*, of sufficient interest to justify its description in advance of a more extended paper now in preparation. The species differs not much in structure from some of *Jurinia*, save in the antennæ, but the structure of these, at least in the male, is the most remarkable that I have seen in the order. The peculiarity of structure is essentially sexual, though the female antennæ shows a trace of the male structure, sufficiently unique in itself to distinguish the species generally with sharpness. The singular development is in the third joint alone, which as a whole is of very large size and composed of elongate slender rods enclosing a deep narrow basket-like cavity. How such a peculiarity should have arisen, and what service it can be to the male fly are speculations, which, like those on many other striking sexual peculiarities of structure so common among Diptera, must for the present remain as speculations. Here, as is so generally the rule among Diptera, and indeed among all forms of animal

life, the peculiarity, so far as it is sexual, is a male character; but it is in this family where we find more frequently than in any other, definite female sexual structural peculiarities—I mean the flattened front tarsi; similar and striking female characters I have observed in several South American *Syrphidæ*, but I can recall few other instances in the order.

The structure of the antennæ in the present case, as well as I can describe it, is as follows: The first joint is short; the second stout, and about twice as long as the first, its width at the tip nearly as great as the length. The third consists essentially of two very slender processes or branches, which give off twelve pairs of slender rods symmetrically. The upper branch, the shorter, extends forward parallel with the upper border of the second joint; the other springs at a right angle from the extreme base, and descends to the oral margin, curved throughout, and forming the convex hypothenuse of the right-angled triangle, the other two sides of which are straight. From the upper branch there arise four, from the lower eight pairs of rods, which are slender, horizontal and parallel, separated by about their own width from the adjoining ones on each side, and gently curved outward to enclose the deep bilaterally symmetrical cavity. They all terminate in a vertical plane, and form, in front view, an elongate elliptical figure four or five times as long as wide. The rods become successively shorter, the two last pairs being very short, and from between the branches of the upper terminal pair arises the stout, three-jointed arista. — The whole structure might be compared with the ribs and keel of a very narrow deep ship.

In the female the structure is very different, more like that of the ordinary antenna of a *Jurinia*, except that there is a deep fissure from the anterior inferior margin, running parallel with the upper margin, two-thirds or more of the way to the base and dividing the joint into two unsymmetrical parts. The tendency toward the remarkable fissural structure of the male is yet further shown on one side only of one of the two females, where the upper portion has yet another, more shallow, emargination, forming two points to the division, and in the other female where the lower part has two very shallow emarginations of its border. The second joint is more slender than in the male, scarcely half the length of the third. The other generic characters are as follows:

Talarocera, gen. nov. Eyes small, bare. Front broad in both sexes; in the male with a single row of bristles, descending below the insertion of the antennæ; in the female with two additional bristles without, directed anteriorly. Fossulate portion of the face broad and shallow, the sides of the face rather narrow, and wholly without bristle; epistoma strongly projecting forwards; bristles confined to lowermost portion and oral margin, more on the cheeks; a single stout one at lower end of lateral ridges. Palpi projecting beyond the oral margin, broad and flat, spatulate.